OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN **ALBERTA**

Lost-Time Claims and Claim Rates

Alberta Motor Transport Association Industries

2000 to 2004

Released July 2005

WORK SAFE ALBERTA

Alberta HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

the people & workplace department

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Highlights ii

1. Introduction 1

2. Lost-Time Claim Rate and Duration Rate 3
2.1 Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size of Employer 5
2.2 Lost-Time Claims by AMTA Industry 6

3. Injury and Disease Analysis 9
3.1 Injured Worker Characteristics 9
3.2 Nature of Injury or Disease 11
3.3 Part of Body Injured 13
3.4 Source of Injury or Disease 15
3.5 Type of Event or Exposure 17
3.6 Duration of Disability 20

4. Certificate of Recognition Employers 22

5. Occupational Fatalities 24

Appendix A: Terms, Definitions and Formulas 28

Appendix B: AMTA WCB Industry Codes 31

Contact Information 32

HIGHLIGHTS

From 2000 to 2004...

- There were 11,633 lost-time claims from workers in the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) industries. Of those, 92.7% involved General Delivery Services Trucking industry.
- Sprains, strains and tears were the most common nature of injury, accounting for over half of the total lost-time claims.
- The trunk was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 43.0% of the total claims.
- Overexertion was the cause of 22.8% of all incident types.
- More than half of the injured workers were between 25 and 44 years of age.
- Over twenty-eight percent of claims resulted in between one and five days off work.

In 2004...

- The Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) – Alberta accepted 2,080 lost-time claims from AMTA workers, representing 5.9% of all lost-time claims in the province.
- The lost-time claim rate for the AMTA industries was 5.1 per 100 person-years, the lowest rate achieved in the last five years. The 2004 provincial lost-time claim rate was 2.6 per 100 person-years.
- The duration rate for the AMTA industries was 188 days lost per 100 person-years compared to the provincial rate of 65 per 100 person-years.
- Specialized Trucking had the lowest lost-time claim rate of all AMTA industries, at 4.4 per 100 person-years. General Delivery Services Trucking had the highest lost-time claim rate, at 5.2 per 100 person-years.
- Employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate at 6.1 per 100 person-years.

- Nearly six percent of employers in the AMTA industries had a valid Certificate of Recognition (COR).

- The WCB accepted 18 occupational fatalities for compensation in the AMTA industries, representing 14.5% of all workplace fatalities accepted in Alberta.

106-02099/

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Role of Alberta Human Resources and Employment

Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) invests in people and fosters safe and productive workplaces. AHRE develops and delivers programs and services which contribute to workplaces that are safe, healthy, fair and stable for workers and employers by:

- Working with industry and safety associations to audit and certify health and safety programs.
- Helping employers, workers, unions and industry associations work together by offering facilitation services, workshops and partnership opportunities.
- Developing and maintaining policy and legislated standards in Alberta.
- Preparing and providing ongoing support of Alberta's workplace health and safety legislation.

Explaining legislated standards under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Employment Standards Code and ensuring compliance through complaint resolution, investigation and targeted inspections.

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in AMTA Industries 2000 to 2004

Each year, AHRE prepares a report on the occupational injuries and diseases in the AMTA industries. The purpose of this report is to provide government, employers, workers, and health and safety professionals in the AMTA industries with information about key health and safety issues. This report includes:

- An estimation of the risk of injury or disease (lost-time claim rate) in addition to general descriptive information about incidents and injured workers.
- The number of employers that earned a Certificate of Recognition (COR).
- Occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB for compensation and fatality rates for the AMTA industries.

Notes about this report:

- While this report focuses on 2004 data, information for 2000 to 2003 is also provided for comparison.
- Lost-time claim rate based on a few person-years is too volatile to make a valid comparison; therefore lost-time claim rate is not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years.
- Duration rate is highly unstable when based on a few lost-time claims. Duration rate is not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.
- Percentages may not add up to 100 because of rounding.
- Terms, definitions and formulas are described in Appendix A. Industry codes are listed in Appendix B.

SECTION 2

LOST-TIME CLAIM RATE AND DURATION RATE

The lost-time claim rate[1] represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year. The 2004 lost-time claim rate for the AMTA industries was 5.1 per 100 person-years.

In 2004, there were 2,080 lost-time claims in the AMTA industries, representing 5.9% of the total lost-time claims in the province. The AMTA industries' lost-time claim rate was 5.1 per 100 person-years, a decrease of 5.6% from 2003 and the lowest rate over the last five years (see Table 2.0). The 2004 provincial lost-time claim rate was 2.6. The lost-time claim rate of 5.1 per 100 person-years translates to 26 lost-time claims per million hours worked.

The duration rate is intended to show the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work per 100 person-year. In 2004, the AMTA industries had a duration rate of 188, the lowest in the last five years and nearly three times higher than the provincial duration rate of 65.

Table 2.0
AMTA Industries — Alberta: 2000-2004

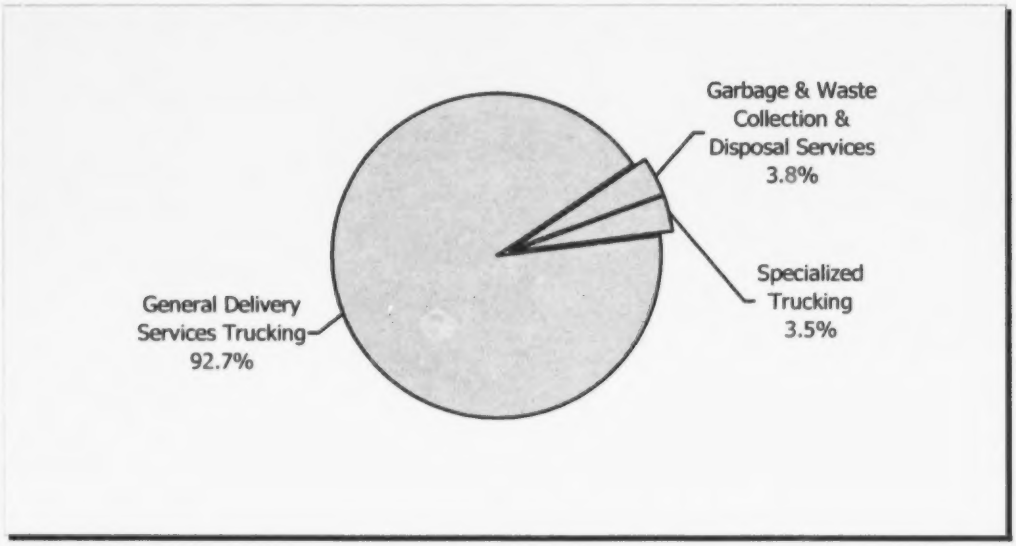
Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	12,571	$16,428,708	37,550	114,551	305	2,579	6.9
2001	12,866	$16,443,072	39,326	108,567	276	2,500	6.4
2002	13,023	$17,322,485	39,739	94,976	239	2,284	5.7
2003	12,969	$16,824,947	40,461	94,325	233	2,190	5.4
2004	**13,094**	**$16,144,403**	**40,649**	**76,521**	**188**	**2,080**	**5.1**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[1] The rate has been calculated from lost-time claims data as of March 31, 2005. This rate underestimates the risk of occupational injury and disease since some lost-time claims that occurred in 2004 were not administered by March 31, 2005.

Between 2000 and 2004, there were 11,633 lost-time claims in the AMTA industries. The General Delivery Services Trucking industry had the most with 92.7% of total claims (see Chart 2.0).

Chart 2.0
Percentage of Lost-Time Claims by AMTA Industry — Alberta: 2000-2004



Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.1 Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size of Employer

In the AMTA industries, employers with 100 or more person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate at 6.1 per 100 person-years, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years at 5.7. Employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest lost-time claim rate of 4.0 (see Table 2.1). For the province, employers with 20 to 39 and 40 to 99 person-years had the highest lost-time claim rate while employers with less than 10 person-years had the lowest.

Table 2.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate by Size[2] of Employer — Alberta: 2004

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Lost-Time Claims	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claim Rate
Less than 10 person-years	12,343	529	13,254	4.0
10 to 19 person-years	281	180	3,962	4.5
20 to 39 person-years	172	233	4,663	5.0
40 to 99 person-years	97	345	6,035	5.7
100 or more person-years	53	778	12,736	6.1
Unspecified	148	15	N/A [1]	N/A [2]

[1] The person-years weren't estimated for employers that didn't report payroll information to the WCB before March 31, 2005.
[2] The lost-time claim rate based on a few person-years is too volatile to make a valid comparison; therefore the lost-time claim rate is not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years.

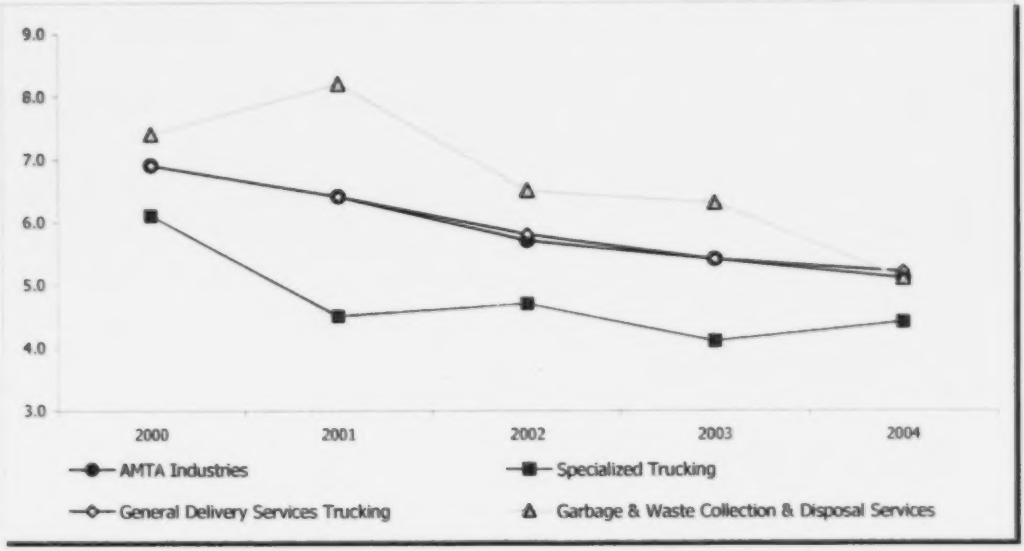
Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[2] Size is measured in terms of person-years.

2.2 Lost-Time Claims by AMTA Industry

Between 2000 and 2003, the Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal industry had the highest lost-time claim rate. In 2004, the General Delivery Services Trucking industry had the highest rate at 5.2 per 100 person-years. The Specialized Trucking industry had the lowest rate in each year (see Chart 2.2).

Chart 2.2
Lost-Time Claim Rate by AMTA Industry — Alberta: 2000-2004



Industry	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
AMTA Industries	6.9	6.4	5.7	5.4	**5.1**
Specialized Trucking	6.1	4.5	4.7	4.1	**4.4**
General Delivery Services Trucking	6.9	6.4	5.8	5.4	**5.2**
Garbage & Waste Collection & Disposal Services	7.4	8.2	6.5	6.3	**5.1**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2A Specialized Trucking

In 2004, the Specialized Trucking industry had a lost-time claim rate of 4.4 per 100 person-years, a 7.3% increase from 2003. The duration rate fell from 238 days lost per 100 person-years in 2003 to 214 in 2004, a decrease of 10.1% (see Table 2.2A).

Table 2.2A
Specialized Trucking — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	790	$1,489,283	1,579	5,461	346	96	6.1
2001	845	$710,287	1,739	4,017	231	79	4.5
2002	840	$1,217,736	1,504	3,391	225	71	4.7
2003	878	$1,983,163	1,954	4,649	238	81	4.1
2004	**893**	**$1,093,560**	**1,918**	**4,110**	**214**	**85**	**4.4**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2B General Delivery Services Trucking

The lost-time claim rate in 2004 for the General Delivery Services Trucking industry was 5.2 per 100 person-years, the lowest rate during the last five years. The duration rate fell by 19.8% from 237 days lost per 100 person-years in 2003 to 190 in 2004 (see Table 2.2B).

Table 2.2B
General Delivery Services Trucking — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	11,598	$14,590,178	34,811	106,575	306	2,397	6.9
2001	11,831	$15,347,162	36,359	101,813	280	2,320	6.4
2002	11,992	$15,867,078	36,955	90,038	244	2,130	5.8
2003	11,893	$14,461,899	37,113	88,032	237	2,021	5.4
2004	**11,992**	**$14,646,449**	**37,183**	**70,588**	**190**	**1,916**	**5.2**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

2.2C Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services

Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services experienced a 19.0% decrease in the lost-time claim rate from 6.3 per 100 person-years in 2003 to 5.1 in 2004, the lowest rate in the past five years. The duration rate remained unchanged at 118 days lost per 100 person-years (see Table 2.2C).

Table 2.2C
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services — Alberta: 2000-2004

Year	Number of Accounts	Cost of Claims	Person-Years	Days Lost	Duration Rate	Lost-Time Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate
2000	183	$349,247	1,161	2,515	217	86	7.4
2001	190	$358,623	1,228	2,737	223	101	8.2
2002	191	$237,670	1,280	1,547	121	83	6.5
2003	198	$379,884	1,394	1,644	118	88	6.3
2004	**209**	**$404,394**	**1,548**	**1,823**	**118**	**79**	**5.1**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

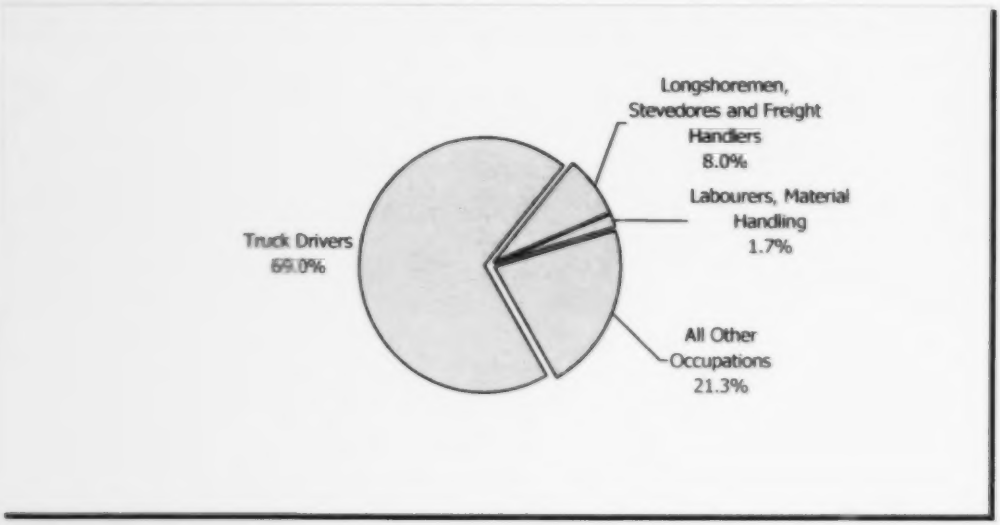
Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part.

This section describes the characteristics of the injured workers and the nature of their injuries or diseases. Tables are provided to enable comparisons of 2004 injuries and diseases in AMTA industries with provincial averages and trends. A detailed explanation of the formulas for calculating the indicators of the comparison tables is available in Appendix A.

3.1 Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2004, two occupations accounted for more than three-quarters of lost-time claims in the AMTA industries. Truck drivers had the most claims at 69.0%, followed by longshoremen, stevedores and freight handlers at 8.0% (see Chart 3.1A).

Chart 3.1A
Lost-Time Claims by Occupation — Alberta: 2004


Longshoremen, Stevedores and Freight Handlers 8.0%
Labourers, Material Handling 1.7%
All Other Occupations 21.3%
Truck Drivers 69.0%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2000 and 2004, 55.0% of claims were from workers aged between 25 and 44 years. Workers 45 years and older had 33.1% of claims, while young workers aged 15 to 24 accounted for 11.9% (see Table 3.1A).

Table 3.1A
Lost-Time Claims by Age — Alberta: 2000-2004

Age	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
15 – 19 Years	75	86	58	51	**64**	334	2.9%
20 – 24 Years	264	254	215	173	**145**	1,051	9.0%
25 – 34 Years	713	655	550	490	**507**	2,915	25.1%
35 – 44 Years	784	763	731	656	**549**	3,483	29.9%
45 – 54 Years	501	509	452	511	**550**	2,523	21.7%
55 – 64 Years	216	199	249	274	**232**	1,170	10.1%
65 Years and Over	26	32	27	35	**33**	153	1.3%
Unspecified	0	2	2	0	**0**	4	0.0%
Total	**2,579**	**2,500**	**2,284**	**2,190**	**2,080**	**11,633**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the AMTA industries, the majority of claims were from men. Between 2000 and 2004, 91.3% of claims involved men. Lost-time claims from women accounted for 7.0% (see Table 3.1B).

Table 3.1B
Lost-Time Claims by Gender — Alberta: 2000-2004

Gender	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Men	2,347	2,285	2,078	2,002	**1,909**	10,621	91.3%
Women	193	173	154	148	**143**	811	7.0%
Unspecified	39	42	52	40	**28**	201	1.7%
Total	**2,579**	**2,500**	**2,284**	**2,190**	**2,080**	**11,633**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

3.2 Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. Between 2000 and 2004, 89.4% of all lost-time claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The three most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, 50.3%; fractures and dislocations, 11.2%; and surface wounds and bruises, 11.0% (see Table 3.2A).

Table 3.2A
Nature of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2000-2004

Nature of Injury or Disease	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**2,353**	**2,241**	**1,976**	**1,946**	**1,887**	**10,403**	**89.4%**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	1,359	1,289	1,132	1,056	1,015	5,851	50.3%
Fractures and Dislocations	271	258	252	249	271	1,301	11.2%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	311	273	214	231	245	1,274	11.0%
Open Wounds	110	117	82	91	86	486	4.2%
Burns	27	30	27	19	23	126	1.1%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	275	274	269	300	247	1,365	11.7%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**89**	**75**	**87**	**92**	**76**	**419**	**3.6%**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**10**	**13**	**6**	**16**	**7**	**52**	**0.4%**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**1**	**8**	**6**	**4**	**6**	**25**	**0.2%**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**7**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**1**	**15**	**0.1%**
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	**1**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**< 0.1%**
Nature of Injury – Unknown	**118**	**160**	**204**	**131**	**103**	**716**	**6.2%**
Total	**2,579**	**2,500**	**2,284**	**2,190**	**2,080**	**11,633**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, sprains, strains and tears accounted for 48.8% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 2.1 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this nature of injury category for the whole province. Fractures and dislocations accounted for 13.0% of claims, which was 2.9 times higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.2B).

Table 3.2B
Nature of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2004[3]

Nature of Injury or Disease	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**90.7%**	**88.9%**	**2.0**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	48.8%	46.8%	2.1
Fractures and Dislocations	13.0%	8.9%	2.9
Surface Wounds and Bruises	11.8%	11.0%	2.1
Open Wounds	4.1%	8.7%	0.9
Burns	1.1%	2.4%	0.9
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	11.9%	11.0%	2.1
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**3.7%**	**6.3%**	**1.1**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**0.3%**	**0.3%**	**2.0**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**0.3%**	**0.3%**	**1.8**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**< 0.1%**	**< 0.1%**	**16.6**
Nature of Injury - Unknown	**5.0%**	**4.0%**	**2.4**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[3] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.3 Part of Body Injured

Between 2000 and 2004, the trunk was the main injured body part, accounting for 43.0% of the total lost-time claims in the AMTA industries, followed by lower extremities at 22.1% and upper extremities at 13.2%. The most common trunk injury was to the back, including spine and spinal cord, representing 28.3% of total lost-time claims (see Table 3.3A).

Table 3.3A
Part of Body Injured — Alberta: 2000-2004

Part of Body Injured	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Trunk	**1,155**	**1,113**	**966**	**918**	**853**	**5,005**	**43.0%**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	781	738	646	608	524	3,297	28.3%
Other Trunk	374	375	320	310	329	1,708	14.7%
Lower Extremities	**560**	**550**	**475**	**463**	**522**	**2,570**	**22.1%**
Leg(s)	237	238	205	194	237	1,111	9.6%
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	282	274	236	238	255	1,285	11.0%
Other Lower Extremities	41	38	34	31	30	174	1.5%
Upper Extremities	**348**	**341**	**300**	**278**	**272**	**1,539**	**13.2%**
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	100	92	82	74	71	419	3.6%
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	134	140	108	103	99	584	5.0%
Other Upper Extremities	114	109	110	101	102	536	4.6%
Head	**141**	**147**	**140**	**137**	**136**	**701**	**6.0%**
Eye(s)	27	24	33	29	34	147	1.3%
Other Head Parts	114	123	107	108	102	554	4.8%
Multiple Body Parts	**246**	**249**	**312**	**301**	**213**	**1,321**	**11.4%**
Neck, Including Throat	**111**	**73**	**63**	**63**	**65**	**375**	**3.2%**
Body Systems	**13**	**11**	**9**	**14**	**10**	**57**	**0.5%**
Part of Body - Unknown	**5**	**12**	**18**	**12**	**8**	**55**	**0.5%**
Other Body Parts	**0**	**4**	**1**	**4**	**1**	**10**	**0.1%**
Total	**2,579**	**2,500**	**2,284**	**2,190**	**2,080**	**11,633**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, the back, including spine and spinal cord accounted for 25.2% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 1.9 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this part of body category for the whole province. Percentages of injuries in all part of body categories for 2004 were higher than the provincial average, with the exception of wrists and hands except fingers, and fingers and fingernails (see Table 3.3B).

Table 3.3B
Part of Body Injured — Comparison 2004[4]

Part of Body Injured	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Trunk	**41.0%**	**38.5%**	**2.1**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	25.2%	25.7%	1.9
Other Trunk	15.8%	12.9%	2.4
Lower Extremities	**25.1%**	**18.9%**	**2.6**
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	12.3%	8.3%	2.9
Leg(s)	11.4%	9.4%	2.4
Other Lower Extremities	1.4%	1.2%	2.3
Upper Extremities	**13.1%**	**24.5%**	**1.0**
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	4.8%	9.5%	1.0
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	3.4%	8.0%	0.8
Other Upper Extremities	4.9%	7.0%	1.4
Head	**6.5%**	**7.5%**	**1.7**
Eye(s)	1.6%	2.8%	1.2
Other Head Parts	4.9%	4.7%	2.1
Multiple Body Parts	**10.2%**	**7.4%**	**2.7**
Neck, Including Throat	**3.1%**	**2.2%**	**2.8**
Body Systems	**0.5%**	**0.6%**	**1.5**
Part of Body - Unknown	**0.4%**	**0.2%**	**3.6**
Other Body Parts	**< 0.1 %**	**0.1%**	**1.4**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[4] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.4 Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact resulting in an injury or disease. Two primary sources of injury accounted for 39.3% of lost-time claims. Vehicles accounted for 19.8% of all claims while structures and surfaces represented 19.5% (see Table 3.4A).

Table 3.4A
Source of Injury or Disease — Alberta: 2000-2004

Source of Injury or Disease	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Vehicles	**518**	**458**	**481**	**437**	**407**	**2,301**	**19.8%**
Structures and Surfaces	**475**	**450**	**422**	**495**	**428**	**2,270**	**19.5%**
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**305**	**340**	**346**	**342**	**350**	**1,683**	**14.5%**
Person – Injured or Ill Worker	269	309	324	317	331	1,550	13.3%
Person – Other Than Injured or Ill Worker [1]	2	3	3	6	3	17	0.1%
Minerals – Metallic and Non-metallic (except fuel)	15	6	6	8	8	43	0.4%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	19	22	13	11	8	73	0.6%
Containers [2]	**378**	**342**	**266**	**246**	**254**	**1,486**	**12.8%**
Parts and Materials	**243**	**253**	**172**	**184**	**189**	**1,041**	**8.9%**
Machinery	**99**	**104**	**79**	**82**	**77**	**441**	**3.8%**
Other Sources	**61**	**55**	**55**	**79**	**76**	**326**	**2.8%**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**60**	**47**	**41**	**56**	**34**	**238**	**2.0%**
Hand Tools – Non-powered	35	28	23	26	21	133	1.1%
Hand Tools – Powered	4	3	4	6	4	21	0.2%
Other Tools and Equipments	21	16	14	24	9	84	0.7%
Furniture and Fixtures	**45**	**60**	**54**	**51**	**44**	**254**	**2.2%**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**20**	**10**	**16**	**9**	**16**	**71**	**0.6%**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**375**	**381**	**352**	**209**	**205**	**1,522**	**13.1%**
Total	**2,579**	**2,500**	**2,284**	**2,190**	**2,080**	**11,633**	**100.0%**

[1] Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.

[2] Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.)

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, structures and surfaces accounted for 20.6% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 2.5 times higher the average percentage of injuries for this source of injury category for the whole province. Vehicles accounted for 19.6% of AMTA industries' claims, which was 5.3 times higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.4B).

Table 3.4B
Source of Injury or Disease — Comparison 2004[5]

Source of Injury or Disease	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Structures and Surfaces	**20.6%**	**15.9%**	**2.5**
Vehicles	**19.6%**	**7.2%**	**5.3**
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**16.8%**	**25.2%**	**1.3**
Person – Injured or Ill Worker	15.9%	18.4%	1.7
Person – Other Than Injured or Ill Worker	0.1%	4.9%	0.1
Minerals – Metallic and Non-metallic (except fuel)	0.4%	0.3%	2.4
Other Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	0.4%	1.6%	0.6
Containers	**12.2%**	**10.1%**	**2.4**
Parts and Materials	**9.1%**	**9.8%**	**1.8**
Machinery	**3.7%**	**5.7%**	**1.3**
Other Sources	**3.7%**	**5.3%**	**1.4**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**1.6%**	**6.2%**	**0.5**
Hand Tools – Non-powered	1.0%	3.3%	0.6
Hand Tools – Powered	0.2%	0.9%	0.4
Other Tools and Equipments	0.4%	2.0%	0.4
Furniture and Fixtures	**2.1%**	**3.2%**	**1.3**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**0.8%**	**0.9%**	**1.7**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**9.9%**	**10.5%**	**1.8**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[5] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.5 Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. The two most common types of events or exposures that comprised more than half of the total lost-time claims in the AMTA industries in the last five years are: bodily reaction and exertion, 36.7% and falls, 21.8% (see Table 3.5A).

Table 3.5A
Type of Event or Exposure — Alberta: 2000-2004

Type of Event or Exposure	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
Bodily Reaction and Exertion	**926**	**948**	**806**	**799**	**788**	**4,267**	**36.7%**
Overexertion	648	625	477	470	434	2,654	22.8%
Bodily Reaction [1]	223	279	276	274	273	1,325	11.4%
Repetitive Motion	33	29	27	24	34	147	1.3%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	22	15	26	31	47	141	1.2%
Falls	**559**	**535**	**456**	**532**	**455**	**2,537**	**21.8%**
Fall on Same Level	273	258	233	297	257	1,318	11.3%
Fall to Lower Level	235	219	184	195	162	995	8.6%
Other Falls	51	58	39	40	36	224	1.9%
Contact with Objects and Equipment	**477**	**456**	**415**	**387**	**385**	**2,120**	**18.2%**
Struck by Object	269	240	229	210	198	1,146	9.9%
Caught in Object	109	93	75	75	85	437	3.8%
Struck Against Object	88	108	86	77	77	436	3.8%
Rubbed or Abraded	9	13	18	15	15	70	0.6%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	2	2	7	10	10	31	0.3%
Transportation Accidents	**373**	**305**	**318**	**307**	**276**	**1,579**	**13.6%**
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**46**	**42**	**39**	**45**	**47**	**219**	**1.9%**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**10**	**12**	**8**	**9**	**7**	**46**	**0.4%**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	2	1	4	4	4	15	0.1%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	8	11	4	5	3	31	0.3%
Fires and Explosions	**3**	**5**	**5**	**2**	**7**	**22**	**0.2%**
Type of Event - Unknown	**185**	**197**	**237**	**108**	**115**	**842**	**7.2%**
Other Events or Exposures	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**< 0.1%**
Total	**2,579**	**2,500**	**2,284**	**2,190**	**2,073**	**11,626**	**100.0%**

[1] Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In 2004, overexertion accounted for 20.9% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 1.8 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for this type of event category for the whole province. Nearly all type of event categories were higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.5B).

Table 3.5B
Type of Event or Exposure — Comparison 2004[6]

Type of Event or Exposure	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
Bodily Reaction and Exertion	**37.9%**	**42.5%**	**1.8**
Overexertion	20.9%	23.2%	1.8
Bodily Reaction	13.1%	12.1%	2.1
Repetitive Motions	1.6%	5.4%	0.6
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	2.3%	1.9%	2.4
Falls	**21.9%**	**16.3%**	**2.6**
Fall on Same Level	12.4%	10.5%	2.3
Fall to Lower Level	7.8%	4.8%	3.2
Other Falls	1.7%	1.0%	3.6
Contact with Objects and Equipment	**18.5%**	**24.0%**	**1.5**
Struck by Object	9.5%	12.5%	1.5
Caught in Object	4.1%	4.2%	1.9
Struck Against Object	3.7%	5.0%	1.4
Rubbed or Abraded	0.7%	1.2%	1.2
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	0.5%	1.0%	0.9
Transportation Accidents	**13.3%**	**4.8%**	**5.4**
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**2.3%**	**4.3%**	**1.0**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**0.3%**	**1.4%**	**0.5**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	0.2%	1.2%	0.3
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	0.1%	0.2%	1.6
Fires and Explosions	**0.3%**	**0.2%**	**3.4**
Type of Event - Unknown	**5.5%**	**6.5%**	**1.7**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[6] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

3.6 Duration of Disability

Duration of disability[7] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. However, the efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can have a major impact on workdays lost.

Between 2000 and 2004, 41.4% of claims had duration of disability of ten days or less. Claims with one to five days duration represented 28.4% of all claims, and six to ten days accounted for 13.0%. More than a quarter of the total lost-time claims resulted in 51 days or more lost from work (see Table 3.6A).

Table 3.6A
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2000-2004

Duration of Disability	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Lost-Time Claims	%
1 – 5 Days	702	706	638	628	**628**	3,302	28.4%
6 – 10 Days	358	337	326	253	**235**	1,509	13.0%
11 – 15 Days	184	184	176	156	**168**	868	7.5%
16 – 20 Days	153	124	118	110	**111**	616	5.3%
21 – 30 Days	208	182	151	143	**140**	824	7.1%
31 – 40 Days	113	126	99	101	**105**	544	4.7%
41 – 50 Days	99	104	98	90	**91**	482	4.1%
51 Days or More	683	641	563	608	**490**	2,985	25.7%
Unspecified	79	96	115	101	**112**	503	4.3%
Total	**2,579**	**2,500**	**2,284**	**2,190**	**2,080**	**11,633**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[7] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

In 2004, claims with one to five days duration of disability accounted for 30.2% of all claims in the AMTA industries. This was 1.6 times higher than the average percentage of injuries for claims of this duration for the whole province. Percentages of injuries in all duration categories were higher than the provincial average (see Table 3.6B).

Table 3.6B
Duration of Disability — Comparison 2004[8]

Duration of Disability	% of AMTA Industries' Claims	% of Total Provincial Claims	Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average
1 – 5 Days	30.2%	37.0%	1.6
6 – 10 Days	11.3%	13.0%	1.7
11 – 15 Days	8.1%	7.3%	2.2
16 – 20 Days	5.3%	4.8%	2.2
21 – 30 Days	6.7%	7.0%	1.9
31 – 40 Days	5.0%	4.9%	2.0
41 – 50 Days	4.4%	3.7%	2.3
51 Days or More	23.6%	14.8%	3.1
Unspecified	5.4%	7.3%	1.5

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[8] Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average: 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is equal to the provincial average; greater than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is higher than the provincial average; less than 1 indicates that the injury percentage of the industries is lower than the provincial average. See Appendix A for calculation details.

SECTION 4

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION EMPLOYERS

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are issued by Certifying Partners and are co-signed by AHRE[9].

In 2004, 5.7% of AMTA industries' employers were COR holders. These employers represented 37.3% of total person-years in the AMTA industries. The Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal industry had the highest proportion of CORs at 12.9%, representing 71.4% of all person-years in this industry (see Table 4.0).

Table 4.0
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2004

Industry	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
Garbage & Waste Collection & Disposal Services	27	209	12.9%	71.4%
Specialized Trucking	74	893	8.3%	43.5%
General Delivery Services Trucking	650	11,992	5.4%	35.6%
AMTA Industries	751	13,094	5.7%	37.3%

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[9] For more information on the COR program visit Hwww.gov.ab.ca/hre/whs/partnersH

Between 2003 and 2004, employers with a valid COR experienced greater decreases in their lost-time claim rate than non-COR holders in the AMTA industries. The lost-time claim rate for COR holders decreased by 6.8%, while the rate for non-COR holders decreased by 4.6%. For the province, both employers with a valid COR and non-COR holders experienced a 10.3% reduction in their lost-time claim rates (see Table 4.1).

Table 4.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate for AMTA COR Holders — Alberta: 2003 and 2004

		AMTA Industries				Province			
Employer	Year	LTCs	Person-Years	LTC Rate	Change in LTC Rate	LTCs	Person-Years	LTC Rate	Change in LTC Rate
COR	2003	764	14,502	5.3	-6.8%	10,906	374,757	2.9	-10.3%
	2004	745	15,175	4.9		10,522	403,984	2.6	
Non-COR	2003	1,426	25,959	5.5	-4.6%	25,669	888,356	2.9	-10.3%
	2004	1,335	25,474	5.2		24,597	949,230	2.6	

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data. Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2004 WCB accepted 18 fatalities in the AMTA industries, accounting for 14.5% of all 124 fatalities in the province.

An occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker that results from a work-related event or exposure. Beginning with this year's report, all fatalities will be classified by type based on the WCB classification standards. In previous years, fatalities by type had been classified by Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE). For this reason, fatalities by type statistics in this report may differ slightly from numbers presented in previous reports. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. In 2004, 77.8% of AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were motor vehicle incidents (see Table 5.0).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consisted of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that AHRE typically investigates. In 2004, 16.7% of AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were workplace incidents (see Table 5.0).

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities

from prior years. In 2004, there was one occupational disease fatality in the AMTA industries (see Table 5.0).

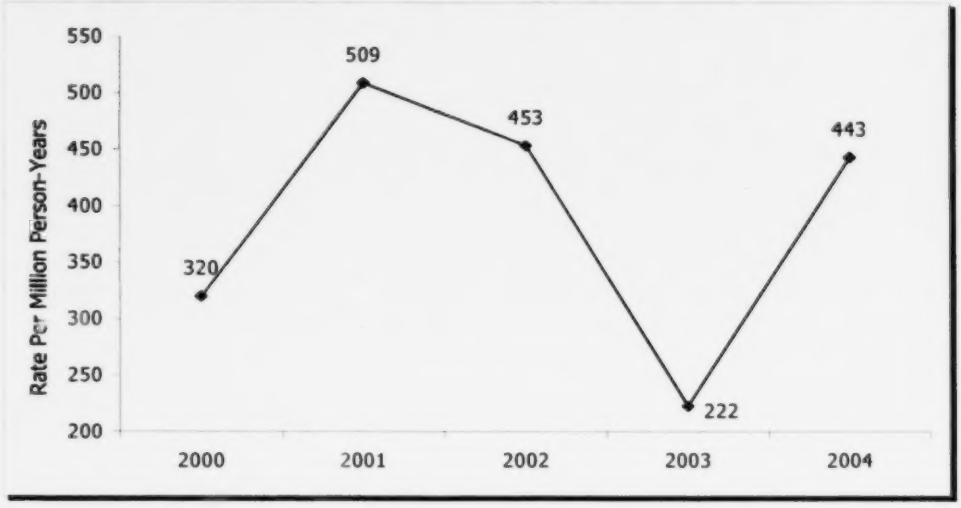
Table 5.0
Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB – Alberta: 2000-2004

	Occupational Disease		Motor Vehicle Incidents		Workplace Incidents		Total
Year	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities
2000	0	0.0%	8	66.7%	4	33.3%	12
2001	2	10.0%	13	65.0%	5	25.0%	20
2002	8	44.4%	7	38.9%	3	16.7%	18
2003	1	11.1%	7	77.8%	1	11.1%	9
2004	**1**	**5.6%**	**14**	**77.8%**	**3**	**16.7%**	**18**
Total	12	15.6%	49	63.6%	16	20.8%	77

Data Source: 2004 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities in the year by the number of person-years in that year. The result is expressed as "per million person-years." The 2004 fatality rate was 443 per million person-years, nearly double the rate from 2003 (see Chart 5.0).

Chart 5.0
Fatality Rate[10] in AMTA Industries 2000-2004



Data Source: 2003 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[10] Estimates are based upon information provided by the WCB. Fatalities occurring under Government of Canada jurisdiction are excluded from the calculation of the fatality rates.

Between 2000 and 2004, the WCB accepted 77 fatalities in the AMTA industries. The General Delivery Services Trucking industry accounted for the majority with 65 accepted fatalities, representing 89.6% of all fatalities in the AMTA industries (see Table 5.1).

Table 5.1
AMTA Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB by Industry – Alberta: 2000-2004

Industry	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total Number of Fatalities	%
General Delivery Services Trucking	10	19	17	8	**15**	69	89.6%
Specialized Trucking	2	1	1	1	**3**	8	10.4%
Garbage & Waste Collection & Disposal Services	0	0	0	0	**0**	0	0.0%
AMTA Industries	**12**	**20**	**18**	**9**	**18**	**77**	**100.0%**

Data Source: 2003 WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease which disables the worker beyond the day of injury. Included are claims for which wages compensation are paid, permanent disability claims, fatalities and cases in which the injured worker is assigned light duties or other modified work upon return to work from time lost due to injury.

Person-Years

Person-Year estimates are calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment uses this data to estimate an average industry wage and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

LTC Rate

The lost-time claim (LTC) rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate and multiplying the result by 100. The LTC rate represents the probability or risk of disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work. Comparisons of LTC rates between industries or between years can be used to indicate increases, decreases or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Duration (Days Lost)

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment obtains this data on March 31 of the year following the claim year and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days} \times 100}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Cost of Claims

Compensation cost of a claim is the reimbursement of full or partial lost wages that a worker received from the WCB due to occupational illness or injury.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities} \times 1{,}000{,}000}{\text{Person-Years}}$$

Number of Times Higher/Lower than the Provincial Average

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Industries} \times \text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Percent of Total Claims for the Province} \times \text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

Percent of Total Claims for the Industries =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}}$$

Percent of Total Claims for the Province =

$$\frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)} \times 100}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}}$$

NEC Means 'Not Elsewhere Classified'.

UNS Means 'Unspecified'.

B

APPENDIX B: AMTA WCB INDUSTRY CODES[11]

50701 – Specialized Trucking

50714 – General Delivery Services Trucking

57901 – Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services

[11] Codes are Workers' Compensation Board 2004 industry codes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alberta Human Resources and Employment
Data Development and Evaluation
2nd Floor, 10808 – 99 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 0G5

Phone: 780-427-8531, toll free by calling 310-0000
Fax: 780-422-5070

Alberta Human Resources and Employment website:

www.gov.ab.ca/hre/whs/publications/statistics.asp

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafely.org